

Cheri L. Theakston
11529 National Boulevard
Los Angeles, California 90064-3827

Telephones
Work (310) 777-7172
Home (310) 479-3414

Fax (310) 777-7037
e-mail address : cheri@gtrb.com

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March 19, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Docket No. 98N-1265
FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857

URGENT

Re: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) - Pharmacy Practices

To Whom It May Concern:

I have only just heard about your MOU which would change the way pharmacies deal with individually compounded prescriptions and shipping across state lines. I strongly urge you to cease trying to change the way things are currently done for the following reasons:

I use an out of state pharmacy for specialized, compounded prescriptions that are unavailable where I live. These prescriptions, in fact, saved the life of my daughter (now 32 years old). Both myself and my daughter suffer from the same hormonal disorder; it made our lives intolerable. I am thankful that we found a small out-of-state pharmacy that would compound prescriptions and ship them to us on a regular basis. I do not exacerbate when I say my daughter may have died in 1989 without the special medications. She was in intensive care for over a week. I searched all over California -- but it was a small, Wisconsin pharmacy -- not hip a California doctor, or a big pharmaceutical company that took the time to find the answer for us and for many thousands of other women who find themselves lost among the ignorant.

The major political parties all say they are proponents of "family values" and "community", well it is just those values and that sense of community that leads the small specialized pharmacies to do what the "big guys" don't or won't. The small, independent pharmacies and the people who own and work for them are the essence of the spirit of America. These are the folks that have made a difference between life and death for some; and added real quality of life for thousands of others. I oppose the draft MOU being proposed by the FDA. In particular, I OBJECT to the definition of "inordinate amount" which restricts the availability and the right to obtain medically necessary compounded medications by limiting the number of prescriptions that can be shipped across state lines from specialized compounding pharmacies. I have absolutely no doubt this MOU, would actually COST LIVES.

98N-1265

Very truly yours,


Cheri L. Theakston

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Cheri Theakston

Fifth Flr.
132 S. Rodeo Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90212-2415



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